

## Staff Return to Modified Workspaces

BY WENDI A. MALONEY

On June 15, for the first time in nearly three months, Jonathan Miyashiro found himself in the Madison Building. Before entering its heavy glass doors on Independence Avenue, he checked in with health professionals stationed outside – he told them he had no symptoms of COVID-19 – and had his temperature taken.

Inside, he found the building unusually quiet and empty, which came as no surprise given that few staff had been on-site since mid-March when the Library introduced maximum telework to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

This week, that changed – at least to an extent. Approximately 200 staff members responsible for priority tasks that can be carried out only on-site began reporting to work on Monday, which marked the launch of phase one, part one, of the Library's restoration of on-site operations.

Miyashiro, a supervisor in the Cataloging in Publication (CIP) and Dewey Section, had come a week before with a handful of other managers and supervisors to receive training in new protocols designed to mitigate transmission of COVID-19 in Library buildings.

Members of the offices of the chief operating officer, the chief information officer and the general counsel held virtual trainings for the returning supervisors on June 15, informing them about phase one, part one, proce-



Laura Rose

Danielle Allen is the 2020 recipient of the Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity.

## Allen Awarded Kluge Prize

The Harvard University scholar plans to work with the Library to deepen civic engagement.

Librarian of Congress Carla Hayden announced on Monday that Danielle Allen, director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics and the James Bryant Conant University Professor at Harvard University, will receive the 2020 John W. Kluge Prize for Achievement in the Study of Humanity.

Allen will collaborate with the Library on an initiative she designed titled "Our Common Purpose – A Campaign for Civic Strength at the Library of Congress." It will include programs to engage schools, universities, political leaders and the American public in efforts to promote civic engagement. "Civic education is our common purpose," Allen has said.

"We are proud to honor Danielle Allen, a leading expert on justice,

citizenship and democracy, with the Kluge Prize as she helps to lead a timely national conversation on how we find our common purpose," Hayden said. "Now is an important moment to discuss ways we can all promote civic strength and engagement, which is at the core of our national culture."

Allen is the principal investigator of the Democratic Knowledge Project, a K-16 educational platform designed to identify and disseminate the knowledge and capacities required for democratic citizenship. She is also co-chair of a bipartisan commission convened by the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, which on June 11 recommended 31 steps (<https://bit.ly/2CoRbwG>) to strengthen American institutions and civic culture to

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## DONATED TIME

The following employees have satisfied eligibility requirements to receive leave donations from other staff members. Contact Lisa Davis at (202) 707-0033.

Craig Andrews  
Sharif Adenan  
Lynette Brown  
Eric Clark

Sharron Jones  
Terri Harris-Wandix  
Donna Williams

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## COVID-19 UPDATE

On June 19, the Health Services Division (HSD) announced one new case of COVID-19 and reported that contact tracing had not been necessary.

HSD is communicating with all staff members who become ill. In cases in which ill individuals were present in Library buildings, HSD is also notifying their close work contacts and cleaning and disinfecting the areas affected. The same process is being followed when contractors in Library buildings become ill.

More information on the Library's pandemic response: <https://go.usa.gov/xdTV5> (intranet) or <https://go.usa.gov/xdTVQ> (public-facing staff web page)

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## PHASED-RETIREMENT APPLICATIONS BEING ACCEPTED

The Library opened a phased-retirement application window on June 15, and applications are being accepted through July 30.

Phased retirement is a human capital tool that helps to transfer knowledge and skills from experienced employees to others in a deliberate manner. It allows eligible and approved full-time employees who are planning to retire to work a part-time schedule and transfer their knowledge while beginning to draw partial retirement benefits.

Information on the application process and the terms of phased retirement are available on the intranet site (<https://staff.loc.gov/sites/hrs/>) of the Human Capital Directorate (HCD).

Questions? Use the AskHCD link in the HCD portal (<https://bit.ly/2Z19PT0>), or contact the customer service desk at (202) 707-5627.

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## OIG WOULD LIKE TO KNOW

Report suspected illegal activities, waste, fraud, abuse and mismanagement in Library of Congress administration and operations to the Office of the Inspector General (OIG). A link to all Library regulations is available on the staff intranet at <http://staff.loc.gov/sites/rules-and-regulations/>.

To make a report, contact OIG via the online form at [www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/](http://www.loc.gov/about/office-of-the-inspector-general/contact-us/) or report anonymously by mail to 101 Independence Ave., S.E., LM 630, Washington, D.C., 20540-1060.

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## NO GAZETTE ISSUE ON JULY 3

The Gazette will not publish on July 3 because of the federal Independence Day holiday. The deadline to submit editorial copy for the July 10 issue is Wednesday, July 1.

# GAZETTE

LIBRARY  
OF CONGRESS

[loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette)

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### MISSION OF THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS

The Library's central mission is to engage, inspire and inform Congress and the American people with a universal and enduring source of knowledge and creativity.

### ABOUT THE GAZETTE

An official publication of the Library of Congress, The Gazette encourages Library managers and staff to submit articles and photographs of general interest. Submissions will be edited to convey the most necessary information.

Back issues of The Gazette in print are available in the Communications Office, LM 143. Electronic archived issues and a color PDF file of the current issue are available online at [loc.gov/staff/gazette](http://loc.gov/staff/gazette).

### GAZETTE WELCOMES LETTERS FROM STAFF

Staff members are invited to use the Gazette for lively and thoughtful debate relevant to Library issues. Letters must be signed by the author, whose place of work and telephone extension should be included so we can verify authorship. If a letter calls for management response, an explanation of a policy or actions or clarification of fact, we will ask for management response.—Ed.

### Library of Congress Gazette

Washington, DC 20540-1620

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### GAZETTE DEADLINES

The deadline for editorial copy for the July 10 Gazette is Wednesday, July 1.

Email editorial copy and letters to the editor to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

To promote events through the Library's online calendar ([www.loc.gov/loc/events](http://www.loc.gov/loc/events)) and the Gazette Calendar, email event and contact information to [calendar@loc.gov](mailto:calendar@loc.gov) by 9 a.m. Monday of the week of publication.

Boxed announcements should be submitted electronically (text files) by 9 a.m. Monday the week of publication to [mhartsell@loc.gov](mailto:mhartsell@loc.gov) and [wmal@loc.gov](mailto:wmal@loc.gov).

# Sarah Boliek Named Director of Congressional Relations

Sarah Boliek has been appointed director of the Congressional Relations Office (CRO). She joined the Library's staff on May 26 to serve as the institution's primary liaison with Congress. She will also provide strategic advice and guidance to the Librarian of Congress on legislative and policy issues and collaborate with service units across the Library to support legislative and funding priorities.

Boliek is an experienced congressional staff member. She served on the U.S. Senate Appropriations Committee for more than 10 years, most recently as clerk of the Legislative Branch Subcommittee, where she oversaw the budget for the entire Legislative Branch, including the Library of Congress, totaling \$5.1 billion. In that role, Boliek collaborated with members' offices, committees and congressional leaders to find strategic solutions to issues and enact legislation to accomplish shared policy goals.

"We are thrilled that Sarah has joined the Library of Congress," said Chief of Staff Ryan Ramsey. "Her expertise, reputation and congressional relationships will be a huge asset to the Library. An already strong team in CRO just got stronger."

Before becoming clerk, Boliek served as professional staff to the Labor, Health and Human Services and Education Subcommittee. Her position involved overseeing the human service agencies within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, and she was responsible for funding issues related to health care workforce programs, rural health and disability programs.

In 2019, Boliek was selected as a John C. Stennis Congressional Staff Fellow for the 116th Congress. The fellowship honors exceptional staff leaders in Congress.

Boliek graduated magna cum laude with a bachelor's degree in



Maria Vicencio

Sarah Boliek

marketing management from Virginia Tech.

"I'm very excited to be a part of such a beloved institution as the Library," Boliek said. "I look forward to engaging with the congressional community to further the Library's mission to inspire and inform current and future generations."

Boliek succeeds Kathy Ott, who retired in October after more than a decade at the Library. ■

## 'Homegrown at Home' 2020 Concerts Announced

The American Folklife Center (AFC) last week announced its Homegrown concert series for 2020 – nicknamed, in the year of COVID-19 pandemic closures and social distancing, "Homegrown at Home."

For years, the Homegrown concerts have been presented as in-person performances of traditional music staged before an audience in the Coolidge Auditorium. Because of the pandemic, the series this year will consist of video presentations of performances recorded at home by each artist.

Concerts will be presented each Wednesday at noon Eastern time on the AFC Facebook page, then made permanently available on the Library of Congress YouTube channel and website.

During each concert's premiere

on Facebook, the performers will watch along and be available to chat for the duration of the show and for about 5 minutes after the music ends. The premieres will take place at [www.facebook.com/pg/americanfolklifecenter/videos/](https://www.facebook.com/pg/americanfolklifecenter/videos/).

More information is available at <https://go.usa.gov/xwfDB>. The schedule of performances is:

**June 24:** The Riley Family Band featuring Steve Riley – Cajun Music from Louisiana

**July 1:** John McCutcheon – Songs from the American Folklife Center Archive

**July 8:** Sihasin – Jeneda and Clayton Benally from the Navajo Nation

**July 15:** Alasdair Fraser and Natalie Haas – Scottish Music for Fiddle and Cello

**July 22:** Emma Björling and Petrus Johansson – Traditional Songs from Sweden

**July 29:** Sean Ardoin – Creole Music and Zydeco from Louisiana

**Aug. 5:** Jay Ungar and Molly Mason – Old-Time Fiddle Tunes and Songs

**Aug. 12:** Walter Parks – Haunting Swamp Hollers from Georgia

**Aug. 19:** Carmen Agra Deedy – Family Stories from a Master Storyteller

**Aug. 26:** Eva Salina and Peter Stan – Serbian, Roma and Jewish Songs

**Sept. 2:** Joe Jencks – Work Songs and More from the AFC Archive

**Sept. 9:** Reggie Harris – Spirituals, Freedom Songs and Other Songs of Hope

**Sept. 16:** Dom Flemons – Black Cowboy Songs and More from the American Songster ■





### Julius C. Jefferson Jr.

*Julius C. Jefferson Jr. is acting chief of the Research and Reference Services Division (RRS). He assumed the presidency of the American Library Association (ALA) today after serving as president-elect for the past year.*

#### **Tell us a little about your background.**

I am a fourth-generation Washingtonian. I attended Archbishop Carroll High School, studied history and political science at Howard University and received my master's degree in library science from the University of Maryland.

My first serious interest in librarianship began with reading about the life of Arturo Alfonso Schomburg, a writer, historian and bibliophile. I was fascinated with his life as a bibliophile and culture keeper. Schomburg provided a service for many scholars and researchers, guiding them to solve their information needs. I later realized that I, too, wanted to be a bibliophile collecting and providing access to information for all.

Gradually, I began to understand that librarians collect and provide access to information and help solve information needs – that was when being a librarian became one of many things I could imag-

ine myself doing. In addition, my father was an archivist at the National Archives and Records Administration, and my mother was a technical specialist at the American Library Association. That also provided some foundation for my interest in archival and library science.

#### **What brought you to the Library?**

My first job was as a work-study student in the Congressional Research Service (CRS), which awakened me to the invaluable contributions of librarians and researchers, including in the area of politics. But at the time, this experience did nothing to persuade me that my professional future would be with this institution.

During my college days, I returned to the Library and worked as a deck attendant, shelving and retrieving books for patrons, and truly developed a real interest in being a bibliophile. After receiving my MLS and doing a stint at Howard University's Founders Library, I again returned to the Library, this time as a librarian in the Humanities Section of the Knowledge Services Group at CRS. I then worked as a research librarian in the Government and Finance Division of CRS before leading research librarians for six years as section head in CRS' Foreign Affairs, Defense and Trade Division. Since February, I have been acting chief of RRS.

#### **What will your priorities be as ALA president?**

As ALA president I will focus on advocacy and equity, diversity and inclusion, or EDI.

Before the COVID-19 pandemic, my plan was to go on a countrywide tour. It would have been a public awareness and advocacy campaign that would have taken ALA to libraries across the country to highlight the breadth of services libraries provide to a wide range of communities. The tour stops would for the most part have focused on libraries that often fall through the gaps in terms of funding and recognition – small, tribal, rural and

prison libraries; libraries located in historically Black colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions and border areas; and libraries serving immigrant communities.

Now, I will embark on a virtual tour of 11 libraries in 11 states over 11 days beginning on July 27 and ending on Aug. 7. Challenges facing librarians continue to be about advocating for access to information for all. Librarians did not need COVID-19 to inform us about the lack of access to broadband services in underserved communities, for example. We hope the tour will shed light on such disparities.

I will also address EDI as an issue in the profession by presenting an interactive workshop during the ALA midwinter meeting in January. The workshop will focus on strategies to address discrimination in the workplace and develop an ALA certification program to train ALA members on how to train their staff on best EDI practices. The intersection of EDI and intellectual freedom continues to be a challenge. I want to focus on the rights of underserved populations to read and speak freely. I plan to develop programs and webinars that focus on this intersection between EDI and intellectual freedom.

#### **You've written about your family's historical connections to Library. Can you comment on that?**

Through my paternal grandmother, I am a descendant of Elizabeth Hemings, the matriarch of the Hemings family of Monticello in Charlottesville, Virginia. I descend from Betty Hemings, who was Elizabeth's third child. I have shared elsewhere that when Thomas Jefferson ceded his vast personal collection of books to the Library of Congress to replace the holdings in the Capitol that were burned by the British in 1814, he directed my sixth great uncle, John Hemings, a skilled joiner, to make additional boxes to transport the books; my fifth great uncle, Burwell Colbert, who was

**Q&A CONTINUED ON 7**

# Informal Learning Team Connects Families with the Library

The team is drawing in young audiences with collections-based activities.

BY NAOMI COQUILLON

The Center for Learning, Literacy and Engagement (CLLE) created a new team last year to better connect kids, teens and families with the Library's collections and resources. Since then, the center's informal learning staff has hosted an array of participatory activities working with colleagues across the Library.

Over the past two months, while the Library has been closed to the public, the team has turned those experiences into online resources on a newly redesigned webpage, [loc.gov/families](http://loc.gov/families).

On that page, parents can find collections-based activities. With their kids, they can choose to make a minibook or their own geographic-information-systems layers, remember Rosa Parks through printmaking, become a comic creator, design a light-house or color pages based on the Library's Japanese woodblock collection.

These activities build on experiences staff fine-tuned between November and March in a new Programs Lab in the Jefferson Building in collaboration with colleagues from the American Folklife Center, the Preservation Directorate and the Geography and Map and Prints and Photographs divisions.

The informal learning team seeks to create programs, resources and learning spaces that inspire kids and families to use the Library for their own creative purposes. Informal learning is defined as learning that is social, personally meaningful, self-directed or free-choice and conducted outside of formal school settings and formal assessments. The team includes staff of the Young Readers Center



Shawn Miller

Families participate in an art-making activity using the words of Rosa Parks in the Programs Lab in LJ G-25 on Feb. 17 during the Main Reading Room open house.

and the Visitor Engagement Office whose focus had been on public programming for young audiences.

The informal learning staff will draw on lessons learned in the Programs Lab to help plan the learning center to be included in the new visitor experience being developed for the Jefferson Building. (See the Oct. 11, 2019, Gazette issue for an overview of the new visitor experience.)

Shari Werb, CLLE's director, is leading development of the center with the support of audience research and user experience design firm Blue Cadet. The firm is charged with recommending user experiences and developing and prototyping creative approaches for use in the center.

The firm launched its efforts with conversations with staff and a kick-off workshop to explore the

Library's functions and resources and to solicit ideas from staff about what the learning center could or should be.

"What a fantastic thing to be a part of," one staff member commented. "I appreciate you including me and [my division]." Said another: "It was very interesting to witness and learn about this process, and to hear the perspectives of our colleagues."

The next phase in developing the new center will involve benchmarking of peer institutions and programs and interviews with external stakeholders.

If you have questions about development of the learning center or ideas for resources or programs for families, please let us know at [ycrc@loc.gov](mailto:ycrc@loc.gov). ■

**Your Employee Personal Page (EPP) is at**  
**[www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/](http://www.nfc.usda.gov/epps/)**



## ON-SITE OPERATIONS, CONTINUED FROM 1

dures and policies on medical screenings, use of face coverings, office hygiene, facility cleaning and social distancing. “When followed, these layers of protection should reduce the potential of coronavirus spreading,” said Elizabeth Scheffler, chief of Integrated Support Services.

More specifically, Miyashiro and the other managers were told that staff must maintain a distance of at least 6 feet at all times during phase one, part one. Updated signage has been placed in stairwells and break rooms and near elevators to guide movements in buildings and ensure adequate distancing.

Managers also learned how to obtain hand sanitizer, disinfecting wipes and disposable covers for keyboards and mice, and they were advised to encourage their staff to use these items to ensure office hygiene. Other changes include the requirement for staff to log their whereabouts in any location in which they spend 15 minutes or more so that the Health Services Division can carry out contact tracing should a returning staff member report COVID-19 symptoms.

Also during phase one, part one, staff must wear masks or face coverings when they’re around others. Upon arrival at the Library – employees can enter through the Independence Avenue doors to the Madison Building or through the building’s garage – staff will be expected to have completed a prescreening health questionnaire at home and taken their temperatures. As Miyashiro experienced last week, professionals at the entrance will double-check for COVID-19 symptoms and retake temperatures.

The new protocols also require staff to scan their badges upon entering and accept a colored wristband to wear for the day.

Usually, Miyashiro supervises a technical team in the CIP and Dewey Section. For phase one,



Shawn Miller

**Robin Dale, associate librarian for Library Services, gets her temperature taken upon arrival at the Library on June 22.**

part one, however, he has been assigned to manage the mailroom team in the Acquisitions Fiscal, Overseas and Support Division of the Acquisitions and Bibliographic Access Directorate (ABA).

Working in the Madison Building’s basement, the team will open, sort and deliver newly arrived books that have been piling up off-site during the pandemic and select materials to add to the collections.

“It’s a big ask to have staff come back on-site when there are still many unknowns out there,” Miyashiro said. “As much as possible, I will make sure they have everything they need to work safely.”

Johnathon Han, a library technician in ABA, is a member of Miyashiro’s team. He said he found coming back to work on Monday a little strange.

“It took me a second to adjust to the screening stations, some of the new security procedures and the precautionary measures set up all around the Library,” Han said.

Yet, once he got his bearings, Han concluded that “not much has changed” in terms of how he accomplishes his work.

Craig Taylor is chief of the Receipt Analysis and Control Division in the

U.S. Copyright Office. He supervises two sections that work from a vast space on the fourth floor of the Madison Building.

During phase one, part one, the division’s In-Processing Section will quantify and begin processing materials – copyright deposits, registrations and recordings submitted on paper – that have accumulated at the Library’s Cabin Branch facility over the past three months.

The Out-Processing Section, which addresses special handling requests for copyright services, will identify priority requests and assess how many are on hand.

To prepare for the return of staff, Taylor arranged for seating on opposite sides of the division’s workspace. “That, along with modified schedules to minimize the amount of staff who will work together at any given time will be our initial adjustments,” he said.

During phase one, part one, returning staff will work on-site no more than 40 hours each pay period; during the other 40 hours, they will either telework or receive administrative leave, making it possible for service units to schedule staff around one another.

**ON-SITE OPERATIONS, CONTINUED ON 7**

## KLUGE PRIZE, CONTINUED FROM 1

help a nation in crisis emerge with a more resilient democracy.

Allen is the author of “Our Declaration: A Reading of the Declaration of Independence in Defense of Equality,” an analysis that rein-vigorates public understanding of the founding document of the United States. Her 2017 memoir, “Cuz: The Life and Times of Michael A.,” examines the way that racism in the justice system and mass incarceration impacted her own family. In it, she made a call for equality before the law and civic participation that animates all of her work.

Allen received a 2001 MacArthur Foundation grant for her ability to combine “the classicist’s careful attention to texts and language with the political theorist’s sophisticated and informed engagement.”

As a frequent public lecturer, contributing columnist for the Washington Post and regular guest on public radio, she discusses issues of citizenship and policy. In her role as director of the Safra Center, Allen has spearheaded an initiative (<https://bit.ly/2Nd51nZ>) helping to guide the U.S. response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

“I am deeply honored to be Dr. Hayden’s selection for the Kluge Prize and to be among the prestigious company of past winners,” Allen said. “I look forward to working with the Library of Congress in the coming months on Our Common Purpose – to promote civic education and engagement among Americans of all ages.”

The Kluge Prize recognizes individuals whose outstanding scholarship in the humanities and social sciences has shaped public affairs and civil society. The international prize highlights the value of researchers who communicate beyond the scholarly community and have had a major impact on social and political issues. The prize comes with a \$500,000 award. Additional funds from the Library’s Kluge endowment,

which funds the award, are being invested in Kluge Center programming.

Hayden selected Allen from a short list of finalists following a request for nominations from scholars and leaders all over the world and a three-stage review process by experts inside and outside the Library.

Allen was born in Takoma Park, Maryland. She studied classics at Princeton University, graduating summa cum laude. She earned M.Phil and Ph.D. degrees in classics from King’s College, University of Cambridge, and A.M. and Ph.D. degrees in government from Harvard University.

Allen is an internationally regarded political theorist with an extensive record of scholarship on justice, citizenship and democracy in ancient Athens and modern America. From 1997 to 2007, she served on the faculty of the University of Chicago, rising through the academic ranks to become a professor of both classics and political science, as well as a member of the Committee on Social Thought. She spent the next eight years as the UPS Foundation Professor at the Institute for Advanced Study in Princeton before joining the Harvard faculty in 2015.

The Library’s John W. Kluge Center administers the Kluge Prize. The center’s mission is to “reinvigorate the interconnection between thought and action,” bridging the gap between scholarship and policymaking. To that end, the center brings some of the world’s great thinkers to the Library to make use of the Library collections and engage in conversations addressing the challenges facing democracy in the 21st century.

John Haskell, director of the Kluge Center, will interview Allen on July 2 during a virtual event titled “Danielle Allen Takes on the Hard Questions about Democracy and Public Life.”

**RSVP:** <https://bit.ly/2YWTC14> ■

## Q&A, CONTINUED FROM 4

Jefferson’s butler, packed the books for the 120-mile trip to the U.S. Capitol and a newly restored Library. Just before the turn of the 20th century, my ancestors left Charlottesville. Over generations, they rejected the memory of their enslaved past until my father and I began searching for my grandmother’s ancestors and assembling the lost pieces of our family history.

### What do you enjoy doing outside work?

My first career is as a jazz drummer, and I continue to be an active part of the jazz community in D.C. I am also a Corvette enthusiast so I love participating and attending shows, and taking rides with my Corvette club. ■

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## ON-SITE OPERATIONS, CONTINUED FROM 6

Before returning, Kevin Fletcher of the Out-Processing Section was somewhat apprehensive. “I feel a lot better now,” he said after having observed changes implemented to ensure safety.

Han similarly advised co-workers who have yet to return not to worry: “With all the precautionary measures the Library has set up, ... the Library feels like a safe environment.”

Ralph Cole is a selection librarian in ABA’s U.S. Arts, Sciences and Humanities Division. In advance of arriving on Thursday, he, too, felt confident that adequate safeguards had been put in place.

“I’m very happy to be returning on-site since so many of my normal workflows involve the selection of tangible objects for inclusion in the collections,” Cole said. ■